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Neighborhood News



La Porte Police offer safety tips for residents

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Living in an apartment complex can have many benefits, the greatest of which is the sense of community. But apartments are also more prone to crime, according to the National Crime Prevention Council. With more than a dozen large apartment complexes in the city of La Porte and a similar number of smaller ones, the La Porte Police Department is stressing prevention as the key to reducing the incidence of crime.

Police spokesman John Krueger said while the city's crime rate is low, crime is more prevalent in the apartment complexes, primarily because there is more opportunity and a higher volume of pedestrian traffic. "Those who intend on committing criminal acts are not as easily spotted as they would be near a single residence home," Krueger said. Between Aug. 1, 2010 to Aug. 1, 2011, there were 23 assaults, 22 thefts and 29 burglaries within the larger apartment complexes — those with more than 75 units. Assaults included domestic assaults. Burglaries included both motor vehicle and residential burglaries, although most were vehicle-related as a result of doors left unlocked and valuables left in plain sight.

On a month to month basis over last year, it seemed there was a slight uptick in crime during the summer months. However, Krueger said overall crime in the city's apartment complexes remains relatively low and shows no sign of increasing. Krueger said most of the crime is due to doors left unlocked, property not secured and the use of alcohol. "La Porte is a considerably safe and well-protected community, but citizen involvement and awareness are its two greatest contributors," he said.

Krueger said one way to keep crime down is to remind residents to be on the lookout. Another, he said, is to develop strong ties to the community. In addition to publicizing crime prevention tips periodically, the police department works with the community through the Citizens Police Academy, National Night Out, Police Area Representative Staff, Youth Explorers Post and several other programs. For more information about crime prevention, or to report problems, visit www.laportetx.gov/gov/police/default.asp or call 281-471-2141.